particular Friend, to excuſe us for the time to come, from theſe long Journies, and eſpecially me, *who am not of an Age fit for it:* I tryed to obtain at leaſt that they would be contented to take only one of us; the Letters of our Fathers were daily brought us during the Journy, and I had the convenience of writing to them, by means of the Curriers which continually went to and came from the Royal City: I write all this in haſt, that I may continue to give you an Account of our Affairs.

An Explanation, neceſſary to juſtify the Geography *ſuppoſed in theſe Letters.*

IT may ſeem wonderful, that the Author of theſe Letters makes mention in his former, of a kind of Warr between the *Oriental Tartars* and the *Moſcovites*, notwithſtanding the extream diſtance, theſe People appear to be from one another in our Geographical Charts; but thoſe who know how much the *Moſcovites* have extended the Bounds of the *Empire* along the *Tartarian* Sea, will judge the thing leſs difficult, beſides thoſe who have ſeen theſe Countrys, have made Diſcoveries much differing from thoſe which our *Geographers* have informed us of hitherto. Very lately *Monſeiur D' Arcy*, who commands one of the Kings Ships, in the Fleet of *Monſeiur Le Mareſcal d Eſtrees*, informed us, that having ſerved in *Poland*, and having been made Governor of a Place towards *Moſcovy*, the *Moſcovite* Ambaſſadors in their returne having paſſed by him, and being by him, treated in ſuch a manner as put them into a very good Humor; one of them ſhewed him a Chart of the Countrys between *Moſcovy* and *China:* and told him, that from 3 Citys which he ſhewed him, whoſe Names were *Lopſla*, *Abaſinko*, *Nerginſko*, all 3 under the Government of the great Dukes, tho' Situated in the great *Tartary*, there was a Way to *Pekin*, which

which was not more than 25 or 30 dayes Journey. This Map it ſeems muſt be kept very Secret in *Muſcovy:* for rhe next Day the *Muſcovite* was in diſpair, for having given it, ſaying that if it ſhould be known he ſhould come to great Dammage. The Officer being come back ſince into *France*, has given a Copy to the King, and another to *Monſieur Le Marquis de Seignelay*. To confirme this it may be added, what a *French* Man has writ from *Muſcovy* within this two Monthes, that they are actually Raiſing Troops, to go to War with the *Chineſe*.

Some Obſervations, and Conjectures Concerning the Chineſe *Characters*. Made by *R. H. R. S. S.*

Made by *R. H. R. S. S.*

WHether there ever were any Language Natural, I diſpute not: But that there have been, are and may be artificial Languages 'tis not difficult to prove. The *Chineſe* Court Language is ſaid to be of this kind, invented and Spoken by the *Literati* and *Mandarins* throughout the whole Empire of *China*, differing from all the other Languages ſpoken in it, and I conjecture it to be nothing els but the names of the Characters by which they write and expreſs their meaning, Arbitrarily Impoſed by them, as we in *Europe* ſet names to Arithmetical Figures, not as we pronounce words written with a Literal Character. This I Judge by comparing the Characters with the Names, Monoſyllables or Words they Pronounce and read them with. Nor do they aſcend above a Monoſyllabical Name tho' the Character be compoſed of many ſingle Characters, each of which hath its proper Senſe and Monaſyllabical Name, And though the meaning of each Character, be an ingredient in the Notion of that compounded Character.

I might give an Inſtance alſo in the Artificial Language,